

SAFR Testimony on HB 4490

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the Shooters Alliance for Firearms Rights (SAFR) would like to provide support for H.B 4490, sponsored by Representative Opsommer. This Bill would remove the need to return to a local police or sheriff's department after the purchase of a pistol to complete what is known in statute as a *safety inspection*. This extra step is burdensome to both the purchaser of the pistol as well as to the local law enforcement departments. Repeal of this provision will not do away with the need to register the ownership of a pistol. It will however expedite the process.

Currently, if one does not possess a Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL), one must obtain a permit to purchase a pistol from one's local law enforcement agency. This requires a trip into the agency where the person requesting the permit is vetted through the LEIN, National Instantaneous Check System (NICS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) system. After taking a pistol safety quiz and completing the background check, a purchase permit is issued. If an individual possesses a CPL, this step is avoided by filling out a form RI 60, available from the Michigan State Police. This form is used in lieu of a purchase permit.

After buying the pistol with the purchase permit or RI 60, the purchaser must return to their local police department for a safety inspection/registration of the pistol. Few if any agencies actually inspect the pistol for safe functioning. Most simply record the serial number and complete the registration card which is commonly referred to as a "green card".

The process involved is time consuming for both the departments involved as well as the purchaser. Every department seems to have their own procedure and time schedule with which they complete this process. SAFR has encountered departments that only issue permits a few hours per week, some that require separate trips to apply and another to pick up the permit. Others require the leaving of the pistol for several days in order to complete the registration process. The problems are so widespread that in 2006, SAFR contacted Representative Caswell in order to request clarification from AG Mike Cox. I have passed out copies of the AG's reply for your review. In contacting departments that are not in compliance, we have been told over and over again that they do not have the manpower or budget for expanding the hours in which permits are available nor to complete the process in a more timely manner. The worst offenders are the departments that require the payment of a fee in order to complete the registration, completely contrary to Michigan law. Lawful gun owners want to comply with the law but are faced with many barriers to compliance.

Your affirmative vote today to move HB 4490 would remove the added step of returning to register a pistol. The registration process would be completed by mail directly with the MSP, saving valuable local resources and expediting the process. Purchases will still require a CPL or a Purchase Permit. Pistol owners will still undergo a background check; the State Police will still have a record of the firearm purchased including a description and serial number. The only difference will be the removal of a costly burden on local law enforcement and an impediment to compliance for gun owners. I urge your passage.

Thank You.

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